



Volume 8

Fall2012

SERV Study Newsletter

Survey of Experiences of Returning Veterans



Department of Veterans Affairs



SERV Study progress

Thanks to all Veterans who have participated in the study so far— your input is extremely helpful to us. We have spoken to male and female Veterans of all ages and from all branches of military service.

We are at 19% of our goal of 1200 Veterans. .

We have a raffle winner!

Congratulations to James from Tennessee! His name was chosen from a random drawing on September 6th. He won a \$100 Visa gift card to spend as he chooses. Our next drawing will take place on Monday December 3rd. Good luck to all our Veteran participants! The winner will be notified by email and phone.

Please tell your fellow Veterans about us-

Inside this issue:

SERV Study progress 1

<http://www.youtube.com/user/bonniederosa?feature=mhee>

Spread the word! 1

The word is getting out— check us out on YouTube. Use the link above or just search “SERV Study” and you should see 4 or 5 short videos of SERV Study advertisements. You may have seen our public service announcements on VA hospital monitors, on Oprah Winfrey Network, and possibly MSNBC. We hope that this will generate a lot of interest in our project, and we are ready!

New staff 2

Study extended! 2

Miscellaneous 2

Useful links 2

Please feel free to tell any of your friends or colleagues who may be eligible. As you know, Veterans are eligible if they have been separated from active duty, and had been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan or surrounding waters.

You can direct them to our website—<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/serv>

Or our email address—SERVStudy1@gmail.com or they can just Google **SERV**

New staff interviewer—

Welcome to Nicholas (Nick) Arntsen, who will be conducting telephone interviews from our West Haven, CT office. He is a recent graduate of University of Connecticut, and will be doing many of our evening calls.

SERV Study extended !!!

Our mailing address:

VA Connecticut Healthcare System
950 Campbell Avenue— Bldg. 8
NEPEC/ 182
West Haven, CT 06516

Phone: 203-932-5711 ext. 3730

Fax: 203-937-3433

Email: SERVStudy1@gmail.com

We have received permission to conduct our project past 12 months. What this means for current participants: we will be sending you a new consent form to return to us in the mail. (Any consent forms signed prior to Sept 20th did not include the extension and will thus expire at one year.) Please look for those consent forms in the mail when you get close to your 12 month survey date. As always, we will include a stamped envelope for your convenience. We cannot call you again unless the forms are signed and returned.

However, you are free to withdraw at any time— this is voluntary. The only difference with the extension is that after the 12 month survey, we will call you only twice per year, and you earn \$60 for each call completed.

Survey of Experiences of Returning Veterans

Miscellaneous

Late checks— please let us know if you have not received your study payment within 6 weeks of your interview. Sometimes the social security number or address is incorrect. Any small error may result in a delay of payment. We ask for your patience in this process.

Response booklets— please have your booklet handy at the time of the interview. We know that our survey is a long one, and the booklet allows you to finish your telephone call more quickly and get on with your day. The blue one is for the first (baseline) interview only and can be discarded. The yellow booklet is for all subsequent follow up interviews and can be saved.

Happy Holidays to all SERV participants. The SERV staff wishes you a happy Thanksgiving and all the best for 2013. Our next newsletter will be published in January 2013. Most importantly, thank you for your service to our country.

Useful links:

National PTSD website:

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

PTSD Program Locator:

http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/PTSD_flash.asp?isFlash=1

[Ptdshelp.net](http://ptsdhelp.net)

[IAVA \(Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America\)](http://iava.org)

<http://iava.org>

For a VA facility near you:

<http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1>

We're on the web!

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/serv/>